# Educational Support Team Goals and Requirements

Vermont schools were required, under Act 230, to establish an instructional support team (IST). Many of these same schools have kept those ISTs in place and merely changed its name/acronym to educational support team (EST) in order to meet the requirements of Act 157. The focus of ESTs was broadened to include barriers that many of our students have and which, while not directly instruction present a range of intensity and often have a negative impact on student learning and performance. Therefore it was incumbent upon those ESTs which were an outgrowth of ISTs to examine their new charge and modify, as necessary, their approach to student support.

As part of the educational support system (ESS) the law requires that each school have an education support team. The role of the EST is to assist teachers in developing plans to support students.

The goals of the EST also include:
- Focus resources to support students
- Create a support and assistance system for staff
- Create an environment for staff, parent, and student involvement in problem solving
- Provide professional growth for school staff
- Identify problems of the school and ways to solve them
- Link with or provide information for the school action planning

The law requires each educational support team to:
- Be composed of staff from a variety of teaching and support services positions.
- Screen referrals to determine what classroom accommodations and remedial services have been tried
- Assist teachers in planning and providing services and accommodations to students in need of classroom supports.
- Provide a procedure for timely referral for evaluation for special education eligibility where warranted.
- Maintain a written record of its actions.

Successful teams:
- Have strong leadership and involve the principal
- Maintain consistent organization procedures
- Utilize a collaborative problem solving process
- Ensure positive group dynamics
- Seek a variety of expertise and staff positions on the team
- Evaluate the team's effectiveness
- Celebrate success
- Make it easy and reinforcing for staff to utilize the team
- Provide ongoing training and incentives for team members